State governments are some of the criteria considered for deciding allocation.

Import of WLL handsets

1648. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government or private companies are manufacturing WLL handsets in the country;

(b) if not, whether we are importing these sets from other countries;

(c) the reasons for not manufacturing WLL handsets in the country itself

(d) the reserve stock available for handset of WLL connections and landline connections; and

(e) the process of selection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) handsets are manufactured in the country in a limited number from semi-knock down (SKD) stage by companies like M/s ITI Ltd., a public sector company and M/s Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd. (HFCL), M/s ICOMM Tele Ltd., M/s XL Telecom Ltd., M/s Surana Telecom Ltd., etc. in the private sector.

(b) Yes, Sir. WLL (CDMA) handsets are freely importable as per the Foreign Trade Policy.

(c) The setting up of unit for manufacturing of WLL handset in India is dependent on various factors including demand and economic viability. As per the extant policies, no industrial licence is required for setting up a telecom equipment manufacturing unit.

(d) and (e) The information is not Centrally maintained.

Speedy disposal of parcels

1649. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state

(a) whether the Postal Department is taking steps for speedy disposal of parcles, money orders and letters; and

(b) if so, the progress made as on date and by when these services are expected to be modernized in comparisons to the private courier service providers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Posts is making consistent efforts to modernize postal services including parcel service, money order service and letter mail service.

A separate parcel devision was set up in March, 2005 to provide a customer oriented approach with focus on management of all percel products and services including international parcels.

To improve the quality of percel services, the Department under the 10th Five Year Plan, launched a scheme of setting up of Parcel Post Centres.

A scheme of Establishment of International Parcel Post Hubs is being implemented under the 10th Five Year Plan. Mumbai Foreign Post Office, Delhi Foreign Post Office and Kochi Sub Foreign Post Office have been undertaken in this project.

The Department of Posts has recently introduced an Instant Money Order (IMO) service in some selected cities, whereby money transfer can be effected instanly.

Registered letters and high value money orders are being processed through Computerized Registration Centres, with a view to modernize the letter mail registration processing. As on date, 34 offices have been computerized.

Automated mail processing centres have been set up at Mumbai and Chennai for processing of ordinary letter mail.

Expansion of CDMA based network

1650. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL and BSNL are not expanding their CDMA based network;